



## ISDH Staff Hear Talks, View Displays In Recognition of Public Health Week 2001

Employees at the Indiana State Department of Health gathered in Rice Auditorium on April 2 to hear talks on current and upcoming public health trends, issues, and initiatives, and the announcement of a contest to create a motto for the State Health Department.

Displays promoting a broad array of health activities, supported by ISDH divisions, ringed the auditorium.

Indiana State Health Commissioner Greg Wilson, M.D. kicked off activities commemorating National Public Health Week, April 2-8, stating that the Department of Health will be involved in building on the "creative, innovative programs" at ISDH during the next year.

Starting in the next few months, Dr. Wilson said that among significant developments will be a cancer control program that will pull together a consortium of the 50 to 60 major players in the state, from non-profits to insurance companies to universities, and include staff at the Indiana State Department of Health. He said, "This new initiative will cut across all the (ISDH) commissions."

Dr. Wilson also announced a competition for an ISDH motto, for which he is putting up an out-of-pocket \$20 gift-certificate for the winning entry. Tongue-in-cheek, he suggested a personal favorite, "Just Do It!" but drew laughter when he added, "However, there are some programs among the divisions that would require a, 'Just Don't Do It.'"

Dr. Wilson expressed appreciation for the welcome he has received from ISDH staff since his arrival this year, and concluded his presentation by reading Governor Frank O'Bannon's Public Health Week proclamation.

Martha Bonds, who served as master of ceremonies, introduced a



**STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER GREG WILSON, M.D.** reads Governor Frank O'Bannon's Proclamation to ISDH employees gathered in Rice Auditorium at the kick-off of National Public Health Week in Indiana, April 2-8.

Photo by Daniel Axler

series of speakers selected by the Public Health Week Planning Committee. They followed Dr. Wilson.

Hans Messersmith, Epidemiology Resource Center, spoke on the challenges of emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. He said, "The challenge in the coming decade will be finding ways to help people change to healthier behaviors." He mentioned the need for people to take control of behaviors like driving, sexual activity, eating habits, and most importantly, tobacco use.

State Epidemiologist Bob Teclaw said that some of the nation's emerging diseases are now entrenched, like hantavirus. Others, he said, like bovine transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease) have been absent until recently. He said that infectious agents recently have been recognized as the cause of many chronic diseases like ulcers, arteriosclerosis, cervical cancer, stomach cancer, and liver cancer. He mentioned that some diseases are the

result of a genetic susceptibility, with a potential impact on health insurability and implications for public health.

Chris Mickens, External Information Services, delivered an overview of HIPAA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. HIPAA, she says, means different things to different people.

For the provider, it should make the patient-provider relationship more comfortable. HIPAA will help assure that confidentiality will be

maintained as a patient's medical and insurance information becomes potentially accessible to a broadening array of care givers, communicated through new and changing technologies.

For employees at ISDH, HIPAA will mean that virtually every division will be involved in establishing procedures to assure continuity of health care and safe and confidential handling of sensitive patient information. It will also mean more work — "documentation, documentation, documentation," Mickens said.

Gloria Webster-French, Office of Cultural Diversity and Enrichment, reported on the need for work on creating better trans-cultural understanding, interaction, and communication in dealing with health issues. She said she will be involved in holding a series of two-day cultural competence workshops to carry out her mandate.

Martha Bonds reported on the 2001 Black & Minority Health Fair.

# ISDH Exhibits at Public Health Week Event Enhance Cross-Communication

Some public health staff with heavy workloads may find difficulty in keeping up-to-date on the changing agency activities outside their own areas of expertise.

The 15 exhibits that were part of the Public Health Week observance held by the Indiana State Department of Health April 2nd may have helped to close communication and information gaps. At least that's the hope of Martha Bonds, Office of Minority Health, who spearheaded the planning and preparation for the exhibits.

The exhibits may also have served to promote and reinforce a clearer sense of the agency's mission to ISDH employees.

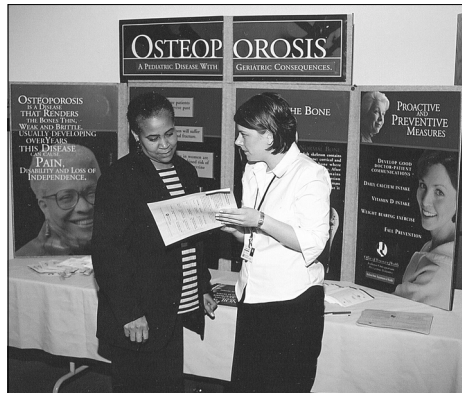
Plans for the Public Health Week program and exhibits were developed by the Public Health Week Committee,

which included Kathy Weaver, Policy Office; Margaret Joseph, Office of Public Affairs; Danielle Patterson and Martha Bonds, both in the Office of Minority Health.

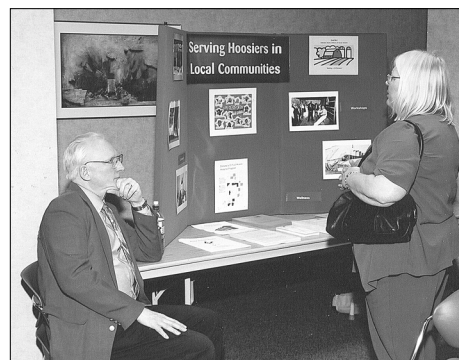
Photos of staff visiting a number of the 15 exhibits appear here.



Susan Seitz and Leah Ingraham converse near the **WOMEN, INFANTS, CHILDREN (WIC)** and **INDIANA FARMERS' MARKET** displays.



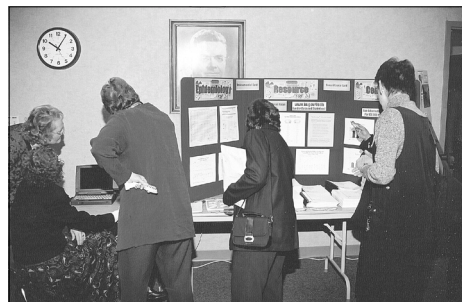
At the **OFFICE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH OSTEOPOROSIS** exhibit, Fannie Cox (left) receives an explanation of a bone density foot exam from Andrea Klemm.



Ray Guest mans the **LOCAL LIAISON OFFICE** exhibit while Carmine Griffis observes.



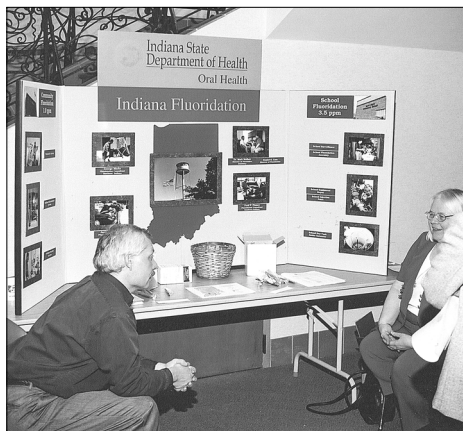
At the **BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER PROGRAM** display, Janet Chorprenning gathers information from Tanya Hammer.



The **EPIDEMIOLOGY RESOURCE CENTER DATA ANALYSIS** display features many reports. Cheryl Thomas (top left) observes as Elizabeth Hamilton-Byrd, M.D. demonstrates to other staff how to locate data reports at the ISDH Web Site.



At the **HIV / SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES** exhibit, Leigh Johnston (above left) offers information. Judy Rose (below left) chats with Andrea Wilkes at the **COMMUNITY NUTRITION PROGRAM** Dash Diet exhibit.



Steve Sellers converses with Carmine Griffis at the **ORAL HEALTH** exhibit.



Christopher Ulsas (left) chats with Ken Musgrave and Anya Thompson at the **CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM** exhibit.



Photos by Daniel Axler

# ISDH On The Internet

The ISDH Web site is getting a lot of traffic these days, according to a statistical report issued by Access Indiana. Access Indiana is the Indiana state government contract internet services provider.

The staff at the ISDH Public Affairs Office has been reviewing the number of hits the site has been getting during the past few weeks.

On April 2, the site received 37,834 hits during 2,625 separate visits from 1,376 unique hosts. In internet jargon, a "unique host" is a separate internet service provider like AOL, MSN, or Netzero. A "hit" is any mouse click making something happen like opening a page or a graphic on a page. One "visit" is recorded when a person logs off from a site. On April 2, during 2,625 visits, 7,814 pages were viewed.

Although April 2 received the most traffic in the week of March 31–April 6, the lowest number of daily contacts, 1,479, occurred on Saturday, March 31. The lowest number of weekday contacts was 2,452 on Friday, April 6, when 30,756 hits were recorded.

The "Time of Day" table to the right shows the total 24-hourly distribution of visits during the week of March 31 – April 6.

During the entire month of March, the ISDH Web site logged 347,229 page hits, which ranked 8th highest for all the state agencies. The leading agency for page hits for March was the Department of Revenue, followed by the Hoosier Lottery and the Indiana General Assembly.

NOTE: Due to a staff vacation, the next issue of the *Express* with the *NewsLink* will be published May 4.

## Daily Report

Shows data for the entire site for each day.

For: **Dept. of Health**

Calculated: Apr 07, 2001 07:29AM Including 7.00 days

From: Mar 31, 2001 12:00AM To: Apr 06, 2001 11:59PM

Displaying items 1-7 of 7 by date.

Date	Pages	Hits	Errors	MBytes	Unique Hosts	Visits	Visits
04/06/01	8,278	30,756	1,302	200.18M	1,248	2,452	
04/05/01	7,908	31,950	996	219.61M	1,328	2,671	
04/04/01	7,547	29,945	1,166	199.99M	1,317	2,581	
04/03/01	8,080	31,216	1,401	206.64M	1,360	2,528	
04/02/01	7,814	37,834	1,892	297.15M	1,376	2,625	
04/01/01	3,233	9,390	550	87.32M	841	1,530	
03/31/01	3,208	9,693	538	76.80M	838	1,479	

## Time of Day

Shows data for the entire site totaled by hour of the day.

For: **Dept. of Health**

Calculated: Apr 07, 2001 07:29AM Including 7.00 days

From: Mar 31, 2001 12:00AM To: Apr 06, 2001 11:59PM

Displaying items 1-24 of 24 by hour.

Time of Day	Pages	Hits	Errors	MBytes	Unique Hosts	Visits	Visits
Midnight	975	1,894	219	19.41M	384	404	
1 AM	798	1,508	126	12.51M	271	277	
2 AM	654	1,209	104	10.66M	230	235	
3 AM	457	1,022	59	10.47M	220	231	
4 AM	399	724	28	5.78M	184	190	
5 AM	464	903	43	8.99M	194	206	
6 AM	597	1,542	94	12.46M	274	281	
7 AM	995	4,509	107	25.49M	381	407	
8 AM	2,425	12,191	276	78.64M	606	679	
9 AM	3,207	16,671	945	103.30M	804	911	
10 AM	3,473	16,567	696	104.58M	807	876	
11 AM	3,383	14,726	619	95.15M	832	965	
Noon	3,165	14,133	367	92.87M	978	1,078	
1 PM	3,169	14,464	515	91.72M	874	966	
2 PM	3,918	18,245	908	128.76M	983	1,062	
3 PM	3,953	16,015	516	128.81M	964	1,033	
4 PM	2,335	9,450	357	69.01M	858	925	
5 PM	1,855	6,817	356	51.87M	697	729	
6 PM	1,501	4,364	187	39.48M	608	645	
7 PM	1,622	5,159	238	39.22M	729	772	
8 PM	2,006	5,459	225	49.56M	768	831	
9 PM	1,757	5,500	245	46.46M	809	877	
10 PM	1,653	4,392	469	37.75M	706	743	
11 PM	1,307	3,320	146	24.75M	504	543	

# Black & Minority Health Fair Revs Up Planning

"Bigger and better," is how Martha Bonds characterizes the 2001 Black & Minority Health Fair scheduled for July 19 - 22, during Indiana Black Expo's Summer Celebration. Bonds, Office of Minority Health, is the program director for the Black & Minority Health Fair.

Space for the 2001 edition of the Health Fair has been moved from the back of the Indianapolis Convention Center, where it was located last year, up to Exhibit Hall D, which is composed of the combined spaces of Halls

A and B.

Bonds says that the new space constitutes an increase from the 29,000 square feet dedicated to the Health Fair in 2000 to the 46,000 square feet reserved for this year. "The addition of a number of new exhibits requires the additional space."

She says that among the additional exhibits are two new vans — a breast-exam van from Community Hospital, which will also provide hearing exams, and a new rodent and mosquito control truck from the Marion

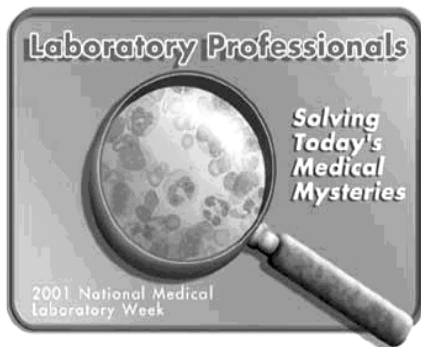
County Health Department.

"Schering-Plough and Clarian Health," Bonds continues, "will also be increasing their offerings by teaming up to provide a Hepatitis C screening."

The planning committee is composed of sponsors, exhibitors and State Department of Health staff.

## 2001 NATIONAL MEDICAL LABORATORY WEEK IS APRIL 15-21

Compared to today, twenty years ago physicians had access to few laboratory tests to detect disease. Advances in biomedical science now offer the public over 2,000 tests for blood and bodily fluids. Pathologists, medical technologists, and medical



laboratory technicians are the professionals charged with the responsibility to perform medical laboratory tests.

The *Express* salutes all the laboratory professionals at ISDH for the service they provide to the Indiana

State Department of Health and to the public.

## National Infant Immunization Week To Be Held April 22-28, 2001

Almost one million children in this country live without the benefits of full immunization. Although Indiana has statutory immunization requirements for school-age children, it's important to vaccinate children in their infancy to protect them from serious infectious diseases.

By working together during National Infant Immunization Week, April 22-28, health officials and community leaders can remind all parents that seeing that their infants receive timely immunizations is one of the best steps

they can take to give their children a healthy start in life.

These shots protect a baby from nine diseases: measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), and hepatitis B.

Most of these serious diseases are spread easily from person to person.

This is an important message, and one that can make a difference. For more information, log on to <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/calendar>.



**HEALTH FAIR THEME:** The focus of the 2001 Black & Minority Health Fair is reflected in its title, "Coming Together For the Health of It." George Murff, ISDH Office of Public Affairs, designed the logo that will be used on stationery, posters, bill boards, flyers, banners, and T-shirts to herald and commemorate this year's Black & Minority Health Fair. The Health Fair will comprise a significant part of the 2001 Indiana Black Expo.



Indiana State Department of Health **Express**

The *Indiana State Department of Health Express* is a bi-weekly publication for ISDH employees and stakeholders. To submit news items, call (317) 233-7336 or send information to: ISDH Express, Office of Public Affairs, 2 N. Meridian St., Section 2E, Indianapolis, IN 46204-3003. Inquiries should be directed to:

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